

EXHIBIT 20



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

Directive on Department Grant Priorities

Agency: U.S. Department of Education

Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development (OPEPD)

Action: Directive

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

U.S. Department of Education

Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 5, 2025.

Eliminating Discrimination and Fraud in Department Grant Awards

From the Supreme Court’s 1954 landmark opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education* to its 2023 decision in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Fellows of Harvard College*, education has played a central role in this Nation’s fight against discrimination. It remains a priority of the Department of Education to eliminate discrimination in all forms of education throughout the United States. This includes ensuring that the Department’s grants do not support programs or organizations that promote or take part in diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) initiatives or any other initiatives that unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or another protected characteristic. Illegal DEI policies and practices can violate both the letter and purpose of Federal civil rights law and conflict with the Department’s policy of prioritizing merit, fairness, and excellence in education. In addition to complying with the civil rights laws, it is vital that the Department assess whether all grant payments are free from fraud, abuse, and duplication, as well as to assess whether current grants are in the best interests of the United States.

For these reasons, pursuant to, among other authorities, 20 U.S.C. § 3411 and 2 C.F.R. § 200.339–341, the Secretary of Education hereby directs as follows:

Department personnel shall conduct an internal review of all new grant awards, grants that have not yet been awarded to specific individuals or entities (e.g., notices of funding opportunities), and issued grants. Such review shall be limited to ensuring that Department grants do not fund discriminatory practices—including in the form of DEI—that are either contrary to law or to the Department’s policy objectives, as well as to ensure that all grants are free from fraud, abuse, and duplication.

This Directive shall be implemented by all ED personnel, including but not limited to those in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development’s Grants Policy Office, Office of Finance and Operations’ Office of Grants Management, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services,

Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, Office of English Language Acquisition, Institute for Education Sciences, and the Office of Discretionary Grants and Support Services, who shall, in doing so, comply with all notice and procedural requirements in each affected award, agreement, or other instrument. Grants deemed inconsistent with these priorities shall, where permitted by applicable law, be terminated in compliance with all notice and procedural requirements in the relevant award, agreement, or other instrument. *See* 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(a)(4)–341.

Notwithstanding this Directive, any disbursements on open grant awards paused due to Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-25-13 or any Executive Order underlying that Memorandum shall be immediately released.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. § 3411; 2 C.F.R. § 200.339–341.

Dated: February 5, 2025.

Denise L. Carter,
Acting Secretary of Education